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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 002106

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STATE PLEASE REPEAT TO IO COLLECTIVE  
STATE FOR PRM/ANE, EUR/SE, NEA/NGA, IO AND SA/PAB  
NSC FOR EABRAMS, SMCCORMICK, STAHIR-KHELI, JDWORKEN  
USAID FOR USAID/A, DCHA/AA, DCHA/RMT, DCHA/FFP  
USAID FOR DCHA/OTI, DCHA/DG, ANE/AA  
USAID FOR DCHA/OFDA:WGARVELINK, BMCCONNELL, KFARNSWORTH USAID FOR  
ANE/AA:WCHAMBERLIN  
ROME FOR FODAG  
GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH  
DOHA FOR MSHIRLEY  
ANKARA FOR AMB WRPEARSON, ECON AJSIROTI AND DART  
AMMAN FOR USAID AND DART

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREF](#) [IZ](#) [WFP](#)

SUBJECT: DART AR RUTBAH UPDATE

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SUMMARY  
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[1](#)1. The DART Field Team West visited Ar Rutbah, Anbar Governorate on 10 May, meeting with cooperative agreement partner World Vision, the former hospital director, and Coalition forces. Since the DART's last visit to Ar Rutbah on 6 May, the town of 25,000 people experienced a failed distribution of donated food and clothes, witnessed an airdrop of 100,000 UXO awareness leaflets, conducted a city council meeting, and underwent the cleanup of four UXO areas, including the new temporary hospital. Ar Rutbah also received visits from the Greek Orthodox Church, the Jordanian Ministry of Health, Convoy of Hope, ICRC and the Emirates Red Crescent Society. End Summary.

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WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL  
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[1](#)2. DART partner World Vision International (WVI) returned to Ar Rutbah on 10 May to develop a seven-member committee to oversee the DART-funded rehabilitation of a temporary hospital across from the former hospital that was bombed. The temporary hospital, to be housed in the former Baath Party building, was cleared of 457 pieces of unexploded ordnance (UXOs) by Coalition forces. The hospital committee will solicit contractor bids to carry out water, sanitation, and other rehabilitation work to prepare for the opening of the temporary hospital.

[1](#)3. WVI planned to convene principals of all 12 Ar Rutbah schools on 11 May to discuss DART-funded repairs to their water and sanitation systems. With the DART funds secured, WVI was able to obtain private funds to purchase desks, chairs, and other school property looted after the war.

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OTHER DONORS  
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[1](#)4. The Greek Orthodox Church donated 11 tons of food and clothes to Ar Rutbah on 7 May that the town's "governor" (Kah-em-makam) said the 63 public distribution system agents would disburse to residents. The Coalition forces said the governor was soon besieged by town residents because they thought a handful of agents were profiting from the donation. The governor's office was damaged and the governor sought protection from the Coalition forces outside of Ar Rutbah. Coalition forces estimated one-third of the donated boxes were missing. The governor later said he did not want additional food donations to Ar Rutbah because it caused too many problems.

[1](#)5. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited Ar Rutbah on 10 May and indicated it would rehabilitate the clogged septic system at the health center and undertake a UXO awareness program. WVI said it would work closely with ICRC on the program. Throughout the week, the Jordan Ministry of Health vaccinated all children from the ages six to fourteen. On 6 May, the non-governmental organization Convoy of Hope delivered hospital equipment. Regarding water, CARE will soon begin its DART-funded emergency water project, improving the faulty deep-well, water system 20 kilometers south of Ar Rutbah.

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AR RUTBAH TOWN COUNCIL  
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[1](#)6. The town's city council met on 10 May to discuss several issues, including:

-- Donation distribution: the Greek donation would be held until

enough food was donated for all residents;

-- Fuel: Gas from the nearby H3 airfield would be tapped for the town's gas station;

-- Drug pricing: the health clinic is permitted to charge for MOH drugs, but not donated drugs;

-- UXOs and security;

-- Water: Parts of town were not receiving water, while all water lacked chlorine; and

-- Municipal wages: most employees received a percentage of full salaries this week from existing funds. The council is comprised of 25 representatives, of whom ten are sheiks. The others are directors of the town's schools, hospital, bank, public buildings, and water. Also on the council are the governor, three mullahs, and one imam.

JONES